

USDA/Rural Development

Bismarck, North Dakota

News Release

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Rural Development Awards Grant to City of Hettinger

Hettinger, May 22, 2003. . . Clare Carlson, State Director for USDA Rural Development for North Dakota, presented a ceremonial check for \$49,775 to the city of Hettinger. The funds are provided through a Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) administered through the Rural Business-Cooperative Service. The Adams County Development Corporation and the city of Hettinger provided additional funds to complete the project.

"This represents the finest kind of partnership with local government and the federal government working together," said Carlson. "This partnership is crucial in helping the Hettinger community spur new economic growth and help strengthen the economy."

The funds were used to renovate an existing building, formerly known as the "Pour House." This new office building will provide approximately 3,000 square feet for use as retail and/or office space. Ideally located on Hettinger's main street, the community now has the advantage to encourage businesses to locate in the area.

Hettinger, the Milwaukee Road RR townsite was founded in 1907, and the name is credited to Erastus A. Williams of Bismarck, who was the son-in-law of Mathias Hettinger of Freeport, IL.

Hettinger was named county seat in 1907, incorporated as a village in 1908, and became a city in 1916 with a peak population of 1,769 reached in 1960. Ole Abelseth (1886-1980), one of the last living survivors of the sinking of the *Titanic* in 1912, was a longtime resident of **Hettinger**.

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Hettinger is located in the Southwest Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zone. The Southwest REAP is a regional collaboration of federal, state, and local representatives working to stem the out migration of people and jobs from the region.

Rural Development is a mission area within the U.S. Department of Agriculture and serves as the lead federal entity for rural development needs, and administers program assistance through three agencies: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Utilities Service.

In Fiscal Year 2002, USDA Rural Development provided over \$76 million in loan and grant financing in North Dakota.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs, check out our web site at: **WWW.rurdev.usda.gov** or contact Clare Carlson, State Director, or Dale Van Eckhout, Rural Development Program Director, at 1-800-582-7584, Ext. 1.



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